

Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin: #36

17 December 2023

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Have Your Say for the NSW Heritage Strategy


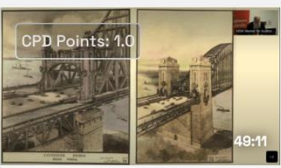


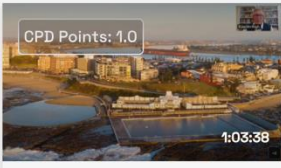
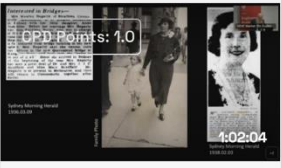





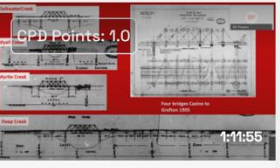
Heritage NSW is seeking feedback to inform and shape the direction of the NSW Heritage Strategy, ensuring it responds to community aspirations in delivering a better future for the heritage. This will help them to understand what's important to local government and the community, key challenges facing heritage and opportunities to address them.

Please share your insights by completing the 3-minute survey through this link <https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/nsw-heritage-strategy> before 31 March 2024.

(By Firas Shawash)

Engineering Heritage Presentation

If you missed a presentation, or want to revisit a presentation sponsored by Engineering Heritage, these can be viewed on-line using Engineers Australia's system titled EA OnDemand at <https://eaondemand.engineersaustralia.org.au/>. When using this system, open the Filter and under Sub Channel select the option of 'Heritage'. This will present you with 14 heritage focussed videos that can be watched for free if an EA member, or for a small charge for non-members. A screen print of 12 of the 14 presentations that are available is below.

 <p>Seismic considerations for masonry heritage... Dmytro Dizhur 07/09/2023 CPD Points: 1.0</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>	 <p>The Sydney Harbour Bridge the centenary... Bill Phippen 25/07/2023 CPD Points: 1.0</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>	 <p>Reconstruction of the Quay Quarter Tower Robert Saidman, Vince Betro 02/05/2023 CPD Points: 1.0</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>	 <p>The Lake George baseline Mark Langdon 08/11/2022 CPD Points: 1.0</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>
 <p>The untold story of reshaping the Hunter... Evan McHugh 26/10/2022 CPD Points: 1.0</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>	 <p>The life and times of Kathleen Butler, building... Bill Phippen 30/08/2022 CPD Points: 1.0</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>	 <p>The construction of the three Narrows bridges in... Gerry Hofmann, Geoff Robinson, Duncan Robinson 10/08/2022 CPD Points: 1.0</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>	 <p>Stonequarry creek railway viaduct and mine... 28/04/2022 CPD Points: 1.5</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>
 <p>White Bay Power Station: Past, Present and Future 07/12/2021</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>	 <p>Queensland's newest heritage - Mount Crosby... 06/12/2021 CPD Points: 2.0</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>	 <p>The Barham Koondrook Bridge Restoration Project Amie Nicholas 03/08/2021 CPD Points: 1.5</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>	 <p>Timber Laminated Arch and Truss Bridges of the New... 19/11/2020 CPD Points: 1.0</p> <p>WATCH NOW</p>

The other two presentations missing from this screen print are 'The New Western Australian Museum' by Tania Perpoli and Peter Dean; and 'Restoring a Heritage Bridge' by Sam Millie.

(From Mike Taylor)

Heritage Engineering Course for Western Australian Engineers

EHWA is running a heritage engineering course in January and February next year: https://ehwa.mywikis.wiki/wiki/Heritage_engineering_course.

This introductory course covers relevant legislation and regulatory requirements, preparation of statements of significance, works planning and estimating, and specific practices for buildings and movable heritage, machinery.

The course will be delivered by University of Canberra and Engineering Heritage Western Australia experts.

(By James Trevelyan)

The Three Narrows Bridges

EHWA have completed a major project to document design and construction of the three Narrows Bridges completed between 1959 and 2005. https://ehwa.mywikis.wiki/wiki/Place:Narrows_Bridge. There are some fascinating technical and historical stories in the chapters at that wiki page, which in combination run to almost 100 pages with richly detailed photographs and diagrams

(By James Trevelyan)

EHA Awards

Commencing in May 2022, Engineers Australia undertook a review of the awards on offer at that time (some 200). An EA project team consulted relevant Colleges and Technical Societies to streamline the overall program. In December 2022, the EA Board implemented a new centralised awards process covering those retained (about 27 “People Awards” and 9 “Project Awards”).

Both EHA’s John Monash Medal and the Colin Crisp Award were supported and remain in the new Awards Program. As a change to recent practice, the John Monash returned to annual while the Colin Crisp stayed biennial with the next award in 2024.

Nominations for the John Monash Medal opened on 4 April and closed on 4 July in 2023. Three nominations were considered by a judging panel led by Emeritus Professor Mark Bush. The announcement of the award of the 2023 John Monash Medal to Bill Jordan was included in EA's very large Showcase Booklet available at <https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/sites/default/files/2023-09/excellence-awards-2023-showcase-v2.pdf>.

EHA extends its congratulations to Bill on his award and is delighted to learn that the presentation was made during a Divisional event in Newcastle on 15 November. A copy of the award citation and list of past winners is available from the EHA website at [https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Awards - John Monash Medal](https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Awards_-_John_Monash_Medal).

Bill is a significant supporter of EHA and during the Sydney conference in October 2022 presented an important paper titled '*Modelling and monitoring 19th century masonry buildings subject to blast-induced ground vibration*', a copy of which is available from Informit. Bill is also unique in that this is the second time he has been awarded the John Monash Medal. His first time (1992) was when the annual award was for the best paper on a topic related to General Engineering in the period prior to its re-designation to Engineering Heritage in 2002. Interestingly, even then, Bill's Paper was on a heritage engineering subject.

Bill is and has been for many years an outstanding contributor to both EHA and heritage engineering, this award is well deserved.

(By Dick Baird)

Engineering Biography R J Fitch Summary



Ron Fitch was a unique rail engineer through being involved with a high proportion of the Australian rail network and playing a key role in the standardisation of rail gauges in Australia. He was a strong supporter of the Institution of Engineers, Australia and was recognised as the first person to achieve 80 years membership. Ron was also a Life Fellow of the Institute of Transport.

After studying at the University of Western Australia, his engineering career commenced with the WA Government Railways (WAGR), as Assistant Engineer, based in Kalgoorlie, but then moved around remote Western Australia.

By 1944, Ron was appointed Engineer in Charge of the Design for Standard Gauge for WAGR and also Chief Draftsman.

In 1949, Ron was appointed Chief Civil Engineer for the Commonwealth Railways based at Port Augusta in South Australia. When the Leigh Creek Coalfield was planned for expansion, Ron was one of three commissioners to agree an alignment from Port Augusta to Leigh Creek.

In 1954 Ron resigned from the Commonwealth Railways to join the South Australian Railways as Assistant to the Commissioner. In 1966, he became Commissioner. During this time he was heavily involved in dieselisation of locomotives and mechanisation of plant. He also completed the standard gauge rail link between Port Pirie and Broken Hill. Ron retired from the South Australian Railways in 1973.

He was very active in retirement including completing a PHD at the University of New South Wales in 2002. His award, at the age of 92, was recorded by Guinness World Records Ltd as the “...oldest person to be awarded a doctorate (PhD)...”

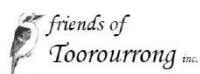
He was inducted into the Engineers Australia South Australian Engineering Hall of Fame in 2008. Ron died on July 20, 2015, aged 105, in Adelaide. For the detailed biography, please refer to the Engineering Heritage WA website:

[Ronald Fitch - Engineering Heritage Western Australia \(mywikis.wiki\)](https://mywikis.wiki/Ronald_Fitch_-_Engineering_Heritage_Western_Australia)

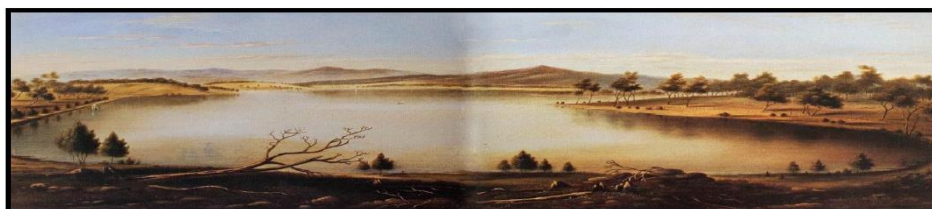
(From Chris Fitzhardinge)

170th anniversary of the Yan Yean Reservoir (VIC)

Find below an announcement for the celebration of the 170th anniversary of the Yan Yean Reservoir, the engineering marvel of its day, on Sunday 24 March 2024. Save the date.



SAVE THE DATE
Friends of Toorourrong presents:
FROM MOUNTAIN -



(Photo – Yan Yean Reservoir, Oil painting by William Short, 1860)

- TO MELBOURNE

Friends of Toorourrong, Melbourne Water & City Of Whittlesea
invite you to join us in celebration of
170 years of Yan Yean Reservoir
Melbourne's first water supply.

A morning of celebration on the banks of the picturesque
Yan Yean Reservoir.

Sunday, 24th March 2024.
Email: fotoorourring@gmail.com

(By Ken McInnes)

Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering (AAMME) Final Bulletin for 2023

Find attached to this bulletin, the AAMME Final Bulletin for 2023.

(By Bill Phippen)

Contributions needed

Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at fshawash@yahoo.com for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.

This Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin is published by Engineers Australia's National Committee for Engineering Heritage. Statements made or opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Engineers Australia.



BULLETIN 10/2023

Introduction

This bulletin provides an update, at irregular intervals, on AAMME operations between 16 Nov - 13 Dec 2023.

Mission

Promote the collection of significant material of RAE Corps History and Heritage (H2), and implement best practice in the management, preservation, and display of that H2 IOT educate Sappers, and contribute towards esprit de corps, future doctrine and materiel development. Also, enhance broader awareness of the RAE Corps achievements.

Theme

- RAE personnel on Operations over Christmas 1899 - 2014.
- RAE Corps Band.

Recent Worthy Achievements

With assistance from SME IETs, HOLDFAST Tp & WAB Cell, the relocation of some larger eqpt, and the building of a single story, five bay MGB is complete.

Our historic VHS Audio cassettes of the Stanley Watson interview at SME is now being digitised.

The audience receiving this Bulletin is still growing. Let us know if a friend wishes to be added to the group email list.

Virtual (by picture) tours of the AAMME on the SME Facebook site continue. This includes 'Find Tommy'. Give it a go.

The AAMME brochure is now available in simplified Chinese.

Volunteering

If you're interested in joining us as a volunteer, email SGT Gregory Black via our mailbox.

See more AAMME pictures on the SME Facebook site.

Christmas Away fm Home



Visitors

Many MIL and CIV personnel, incl families and friends, continue to visit the AAMME, some regularly, including:

- SEG Zone Leadership Team.
- CO & RSM SME.
- RSM 6 ESR (RSM des SME)
- SME staff & students.
- AAHU HQ Staff fm ACT.
- AAHU Heritage Repository Staff fm Bandiana.
- MIL pers HOLSBKS.
- CIV contractors when their work is completed.
- RAN/Army/RAAF Cadets.
- Various RSL's & Associations.
- Pymble Ladies College Cadets.

Training/Courses

Groups continue to utilise the facilities within the AAMME incl:

- SME and SOER EDD.
- SME IETs.
- SME ARES Cses.
- ADF Imagery Specialists.
- 5 ER

The RAE Corps shop trades on Tue 1200 - 1300h, Pay Thu 1200 - 1300h, off-Pay Thu 1500 - 1600h. corpsashop@gmail.com

Curator

The Christmas display for 2023 is complete. Feedback on the AAMME Bulletin, and both [SME] Facebook and ForceNet posts, have been most encouraging; appreciated. We take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contribution towards the RAE Corps History & Heritage. Roll-on 2024.

Christmas Display



Plan for the next quarter

Relocate various eqpt incl MV10, and prep for LRSS IHSV. AAMME staff visit to the Repository, Bandiana.

Establish a kid's activity area.

Continue working with 20 EOD SQN on an OP RENDER SAFE display.

Organise the translation of the AAMME brochure into various other common languages.

Review AAMME Strategic, Collection, and Disaster Plans.

Prepare AAMME for a MGB.

Seek to secure a MK3 (sandy coloured) Husky.

AAMME Closure

The AAMME is closed to visitors 16 Dec 2023 - 05 Mar 2024.

On behalf of the AAMME staff & volunteers, we wish you, and your family, a wonderful Christmas 2023, and have a cracking Hogmanay 2023/24.

aamme.mailbox@defence.gov.au

By Museum Manager: MAJ Robert Wallace (robert.wallace2@defence.gov.au) - 13 Dec 2023